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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

19 November 2020

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Man Sentenced for Helping Move Cocaine from California to Syracuse

(U) A 33-year-old Hogansburg man was sentenced to more than seven-years in prison for helping move cocaine from California to Syracuse, according to federal prosecutors. Troy Lyons previously pleaded guilty in a federal drug trafficking conspiracy, according to officials from the US Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York. His sentence includes 90 months in federal prison followed by four-years of supervised release, federal prosecutors said. Lyons admitted to helping arrange for one person to transport more than 50-kilograms of cocaine from California to Syracuse and then another person to transport the cocaine from Syracuse to Canada, prosecutors said.

SOURCE: 19 November 2020, Syracuse.com

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Pennsylvania – Husband and Wife Plead Guilty to Helping Relatives who Joined ISIS

(U) Philadelphia – A Pennsylvania husband and wife originally from Bangladesh pleaded guilty Wednesday in federal court of providing support to family members who joined the Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS), the US Attorney's Office said. Shahidul Gaffar, 40, a naturalized US citizen, and his wife, Nabila Khan, 35, a legal permanent resident, pleaded guilty to conspiring to provide material support to a terrorist organization. The maximum sentences for both would be five-years in prison, \$250,000 fines, and three-years of supervised release.

SOURCE: 19 November 2020, Philadelphia Inquirer

(U) Virginia - Former Army Green Beret Pleads Guilty to Espionage Charge

(U) Alexandria – A former US Army Green Beret has pleaded guilty to divulging military secrets to Russia about his Special Forces unit's activities in former Soviet republics. Peter Rafael Dzibinski Debbins, 45, of Gainesville, Virginia, pleaded guilty to a charge under the Federal Espionage Act at a hearing in US Disstrict Court in Alexandria. He faces up to life-in-prison when he is sentenced in February. Debbins, a Minnesota native, had a 15-year relationship with Russian intelligence, dating back to 1996 when he was an ROTC student at the University of Minnesota, and on a visit to Russia for an independent study program gave a handler there the names of four Catholic nuns he had visited, according to the charges against him. Shortly thereafter, Russian agents assigned him a code name, "Ikar Lesnikov." SOURCE: 19 November 2020, CBS News

(U) West Virginia - Man Accused of Selling Machine Gun Conversion Devices to 'Boogaloo Bois'

(U) Charleston – Federal prosecutors accused a West Virginia man on Tuesday of conspiracy against the US government and selling machine gun conversion devices online to followers of a far-right extremist movement. Timothy John Watson, 30, was charged after he was arrested in early September for allegedly running a website claiming to sell wall hangers that authorities said could be used to turn semi-automatic AR-15 rifles into fully automatic machine guns. Authorities said the devices were sold to supporters of the anti-government "boogaloo" movement, the code word they use for their talk of a second civil war. Their prominence has grown during the pandemic as many dressed in Hawaiian shirts and camouflage garb, sometimes toting guns, protesting government shutdowns.

SOURCE: 19 November 2020, CBS

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(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Greece – Police Arrest ISIS Suspect After Migrant Camp Brawl

(U) Athens – Greek police arrested a Syrian ISIS suspect on Thursday after a brawl at a migrant camp where he has been staying with his wife and children, and said he was believed to have been involved in several killings. The 27-year old man, who arrived in Greece in March 2018, was detained after an argument on Wednesday between two groups at the camp, a police official said. He was arrested on Thursday, accused of being a member of a terrorist group and participating in homicides. He is expected to appear before a prosecutor later in the day, according to a police statement.

SOURCE: 19 November 2020, Reuters

(U) Iran – UN Atomic Watchdog Accuses Iran of Operating Natanz Centrifuges

(U) Tehran – The head of the UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmed on Wednesday reports that Iran has begun operating centrifuges installed at an underground site but said they had been moved from another facility, so the country's overall uranium-enriching capabilities have not increased. Rafael Grossi, director-general of the IAEA, told reporters in Vienna that the 174 centrifuges had been moved into a new area of the Natanz nuclear site and had recently begun operating. He said that operation of centrifuges of that type was in violation of the nuclear deal Iran had signed with world powers in 2015, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, but would not lead to a greater overall output of enriched uranium.

SOURCE: 19 November 2020, AP

(U) Pakistan – Islamist Found Guilty on Two More Charges of Terrorism Financing

(U) Lahore – A Pakistani court on Thursday sentenced Islamist leader Hafiz Saeed, founder of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), the militant group blamed by the US and India for the 2008 Mumbai siege, to 10-years in prison on two charges of terrorism financing, his lawyer said. The sentences for the two charges, five years each, will run concurrently. Saeed is already in prison serving two sentences of five-and-a-half-years each, handed down to him in February of this year, which means he will not serve any extra jail time. An antiterrorism court in Lahore sentenced ten-and-a-half years imprisonment to chief of Jamaatud Dawa Hafiz Saeed, his deputy Zafar Iqbal. Jammaat ud-Dawa is a charity run by Saeed. SOURCE: 19 November 2020, Reuters

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